(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to meet the marine exports committed during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The loss due to Tsunami that struck on December 26, 2004, goes beyond industrial loss, which includes damage to dwelling units, loss of lives, damage to cropped area, boats damaged and the fishing industry. The loss to the salt industry in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh has been estimated at Rs. 2.20 crore. Government has approved a special package of Rs. 2.51 crore for Tsunami affected salt works of Tamil nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Approximately 68,000 traditional boats/mechanized boats; 2 lakh fishing nets; and 5700 hectares of aqua farms were lost/damaged by Tsunami. Apart from these, Tsunami had also rendered thousands of fishermen homeless. Government have been taking necessary steps to build up infrastructure facilities. Further, the Government through Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) have been implementing a number of schemes to boost the exports of marine products. These include schemes for extending financial assistance to the seafood processing industry; steps to upgrade processing facilities to meet international standards of hygiene and quality; expansion of aquaculture; imparting training to aquaculture farmers to adopt sound management practices to prevent outbreak of diseases; assistance to produce value-added products for export; marketing support; etc. The Annual Supplement 2005 to the Foreign Trade Policy 2004-09 has also announced a package of measures to promote exports from the marine sector. These include duty free import of specified specialized inputs etc. to the extent of 1% of FOB value of preceding financial year exports, import of monofilament long line system for tuna fishing at a Concessional rate of duty, etc.

India's share of exports in international trade

†4338. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether it is a fact that India's share of export in international trade is almost negligible,

(b) whether it is also a fact that India stands at 24th place in the list of 30 major importing countries,

(c) if so, the facts in this regard and Government's reaction thereto; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that the country is still suffering economic loss in export import trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E.V.K S. ELANGOVAN): (a) According to the World Trade Statistics, 2004 of the WTO, India's share in world merchandise trade was 0.82% in 2004.

(b) According to the same source, during 2004 India was the 24th leading importer among the major importing countries of the world.

(c) and (d) India's imports have traditionally been higher than its exports reflecting the growing needs of a developing economy. During the financial year 2004-05, India's exports were valued at US$ 80 billion whereas imports were US$ 106 billion resulting in a trade deficit of US$ 26 billion. The higher growth of imports last years was partly on account of the increase in commodity prices including price of crude oil. India's foreign exchange reserves of more than US$ 140 billion, however, are sufficient to meet its import requirements.

Promotion of "Yen Loan Projecs" in India

4339. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has held discussions with Japan to promote "Yen Loan Projects" in India;

(b) if so, whether any specific industrial or trade projects have been identified for investment throughYen Loans by Japan;

(c) the expected investment from Japan in India in 2005-06;

(d) the States where such potential investment projects have been identified; and